# Transcript of Press Interview With President at White House

Special to the New York Time

WASHINGTON, March 29 — Following is a White House transcript of an inrview of President Reagon in the White House today by the reporters Tom Derank of Newsweek, Susan Page of Newsday, Gary Schuster of The Detroit
way, Ben Taylor of the Boston Globe, Paul West of the Dallas Times Harald
d Loye Willer of Newhouse News. The transcript omits several words of the
struction.

## Proposal on Missiles

Deal With the Russlans

Q. O.K. All right. Regardless of what you tell us tomorrow, it seems like judging from your past statements and the sistements of some of your advisers, any sort of a deal would you have to the sort of a deal? O' on the part of the Soviet Union. Is there any reason to believe the Soviets are at all interested in that sort of a deal? Could Mr. Andropov get his generals to buy off on that sort of an arrangement?

A. There is one thing you have to remember that, as they themselves made public, that while themselves made public, that while themselves made yould have the service of the property of the service of the service

## Period of New Cold War?

the or solitering. I don't mine that at all.

Q. Of course, some critics would say there has been escalation on your part in recent speeches, in calling the sowiet Union an 'evil empire.' And in some that a single part of the solitering that a solitering solitering to that audience was that in speaking to that audience was that in speaking to that audience was that in speaking to that audience was that in continuous that a solitering that a s

## Altered Stand on Proposal

Altered Stand on Proposal

Q. Mr. President, back to the inform proposal that you're going to
make formorrow, without asking you
prevail the details further, I'd like to
ask a little bit about how we got there.
Because as recently as your last press
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Well, are you saying you were ed in that direction but just didn't

like to have. But I made that other statement deliberately so that it would not be taken by "everyone has, well, a complete take-it or leave-it proposition, in that instance, then, there is no negotiation," so to that except it for think that "well, let me just put it this way. We've gande no change in our utilimate goal. But beyond that, I can't speak before tomorrow.

Proposal on Missiles

Q. this point about what you may be announcing tomorrow morning in the way of I.M.P. proposals But I did not be taken by everyone has the vary of I.M.P. proposals But I did not be taken by everyone to try or quick question. Whatever it is begin and the proceed with deployment of the proposal but I did not one provided the proposal of the proposal but I did not one provided the proposal of the proposal but I did not be taken by everyone has a complete taken to release the young to the proposal but I did not be a complete the proposal but I did not be taken by everyone to the proposal but I did not be taken by everyone to the proposal but I did not be taken by everyone to the proposal but I did not be taken by everyone the taken to the proposal but I made that other statement deliberately so that it was the taken of the proposal but to the veryone by everyone the taken to the veryone be taken to proposal that the taken by everyone the taken to the proposal but the taken to the proposal but the taken to the very everyone the taken to the proposal but the taken to the very everyone taken to the very everyone to the proposal but the taken to the very everyone taken to the very every every everyone to the very every every every every everyone to the very every every ev

defermination over these little more than two years to refurbish our own military.

I have a said before — I think it was summed up in a cartoon about the late Leonid Brezhnev when he was cartoned in one of your publications. The cartoonist had him speaking to a Russian general bacter when we were the only ones in it." I think that you have to have some strength on your side. You have to have some strength on your side. You have to have some strength on your side. You have to have some eason of reducing their own wasponry value of reducing their own wasponry value.

## Space Defense Plan

Q. Mr. President, on that general subject of defense, won't your plan to develop antimissile weapons in outer space set off a new round in the arms race? Won't it just be a destabilizing

space set off a new round in the arms race? Won't it just be a destabilizing force?

A i and it just be a destabilizing force?

A i and it just be a destabilizing force?

A i and it just be a destabilizing force?

A i and it just do make it as plain as I could in that address. I've been amazed at some of the fevered retoric and editorials that I have been reading, And think some of them are questioned to the second of the second of

responsible?"

A. Oh, I have just been reading a collection of them over there. There have been charges that this was a moke screen on my part to avoid a discussion of the arms buildup. There have been charged that, in my speech the other night on television, I did not give any date, that I obscured the truth well, I think those charts were pretty factual and based on actual count and actual figures.

Other statement

Other statements — that I was proposing something that never was and never could be a defensive was on; and I had to remember that Vannevar Bush — one of our truly great scientists — was asked by Press feasibility of creating a missile in which the delivery of an atomic weapon could be by missile — and this great scientists after his own study said to the President that the image of a missile that could be laumohed from a silo, pretargeted on a target on another continent just was an impossibility and could never happen.

Well, today, the thing we are taiking

Well, today, the thing we are talking about are thousands of those on both sides of the ocean, targeted on each other. And so for someone to say that what I was talking about was a "fairy



The New York Times:

President Reagan talking to a group of reporters yesterday in the Oval Office at the White House.

Cost of Space Defense Plan

Q. Mr. President, can I ask you justice question about that program that you announced last week? The cost off the everybody seems to be, sort of, moving around it. Nobody is really spend a billion dollars; we do not know what it is going to cost in the out years. One, do you know what it is going to cost in the out years or what kind of money has been put aside for it? And two, because of the trouble you before beinge at it is being to high, why should the Congress go along with approving a program like this that it going to cost a lot more money presumably? Do you have a cost figure on the cost of the cos

this was truly outer space and so forth, I do not know. I am not a scientist.

But to start it, sir, you are going to have to put some money with it. What kind of money are you going to have to put some money with it. What kind of money are you going to put with It?

A Yes well, we already have about a billion dollars that is in the budget now. And some of that would be diverted to this research. Now, you would have to see what direction this took and what was needed to further that research. But I don't think that took and what was needed to further that research. But I don't think that took and what was needed to further that research. But I don't think that took and what the search was not that care that the search was not going this defensive weapon to the Sovies of the search of the sound of the search of the sound of the search of the sea

being too high, I think your paper edi-torialized that it isn't.

Q. Well, that may be, sir. But the Congress has to vote on it and I'm still curious on what you think — the Congress has to work on it and i'm still curious on what you think — the Congress has the store have said, including the Speaker and others, that it's ple in the sky. Why should we vote for hunding for a program like this. They're going to be called on to do it and you can propose it but they may dispose of it as fast as you do that A. I. twould assume that it would assume that it would also have that it would be part of the — in every defense budget there is a sum, as I've said before, there's airready in this one about a billion dollars in various research and it's just a case then of the direction of the research and where you directit to 30.

rect it to go.

Q. Would you like to see it doubled or tripled or, I mean, do you think —

A. I don't see any need for that, no.

## U.S. Role in Nicaragua

Q. Mr. President, could we move on to another area — central America? You consistently refuse to discuss reports of covert U.S. aid to anti-Government forces in Nicaragua. In recent days, a number of our allies have bindicated at the U.N. that they believe bindicated at the U.N. at they would not deep of deep these reports of U.S. activity? Aren't you in danger of U.S. activity? Aren't you in danger of U.S. activity? Aren't you in danger of U.S. activity of U.S. Government did with its secret war in Cambodia? Activity, whatever are thinge intelligence matters and, covert or overtactivity, whatever are things that are never discussed and — not going to the total total

rresident keagan taking to a group or reporters yesterday in the twe that it could never take place, it think is irresponsible.

Q. Mr. President, can I ask you just one question about that program that you guestion about that program that you guestion about that program that the county of the program that the program that

the other revolutionary factions to the dispersion of the government now fighting back on the government now fighting back on Q. Sir, but my question was don't you think that the recent events at the U.N. in which our allies have indicated that they don't believe that we are not involved and this continued proliferation of reports from the area not involved and this continued proliferation of reports from the area not involved and this continued proliferation of reports from the area not involved and this continued in the U.S. Government?

A. I don't think so because some of the few allies who have been critical of this, others of them understand very well whar's going on in El Salvador and all, but some of the white doing in El Salvador. We have made every effort to point out to them that they've been subjected to quite a wave ovorticed on number of them that what we're doing is valid.

Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

## **Nuclear Test Ban Treaty**

Nuclear Test Ban Treaty
Q. Mr. President, if I could jump
back to our original subject of our
relations to the Soviets for the minute,
something that you said a couple of
times, that we have three different
sets of negotiations going with them.
I've been told that, in one of these sets
proposed modifications of the Nuclear
Test Ban Treaty and the Peaceful Nuclear Exchange Treaty that make
verification, in particular, and other
procedures of carrying those treaties
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sponse was very disappointing to the Canyou confirm that, and what do you.

A. Yes, This is not one of the three I was thinking of I was thinking of Start, the I.N.F., and then our negotiation on conventional vesopons.

G. = 1 oct of the start of the start of the I.N.F. and then our negotiation of the I.N.F. and then our negotiation of the I.N.F. and the proposals.

G. What's your reaction to that?

A. It first that the treaty we're talking a start of the I.N.F. and the I.N.F. and I.N.F. an

A. No.

Q. Since that treaty has not done what it's supposed to be doing because of verification problems, are you considering letting the treaty lapse?

A. No. As a matter of fact, I think that we've extended it.

## **Cutting Arms Outlays**

Cutting Arms Outlays

Q. Mr. President, on defense spending, you recently were quoted by your aides and by Senator Domenici saying how you couldn't promise anything, but you might be able to show some, might be willing to show some fieldblik. The House has cut real growth from 10 percent, in your proposal, to 4 percent. Domenici's people are talking about maybe a compromise with the House has cut real growth from 10 percent, in your proposal, to 4 percent. Domenici's people are talking about maybe a compromise with the House has a for 6 percent. Could you settle for the second of 10 percent. Outlied you settle for the second of 10 percent. Outlied you settle for the second of 10 percent. Outlied you settle for the second of 10 percent. Outlied you settle for the second of 10 percent. Outlied you settle for the second you have been allowed to do. The service second of 10 percent. The budget we sub-like you have been allowed to deteriorate so budg't in the previous decade.

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out actually reducing our capability, that there might be some reason to believe that we could some up with a changed figure, not to the extent they're suggesting changing it. And changed figure, not to the extent they're suggesting changing it. And comment yet. We will by the time they come back, I think, know whether here is any flexibility by not. I was very careful not to make a promise. And whatever, if we have been able to find this flexibility, we certainly will give them the figure on it.

—I mean, this might be decided for you, in a sense, in that —I mean, if the mood of the Congress is that we have to cut below the 10 percent, you're not going to have any choice, are you, sir?

A. I'm going to fight as hard as I can a defense buildup. We could not go back down to those figures without reducing our readiness, reducing even the size of our military, number of men, and without elliminating and cut-ing back on weapons systems that I believe are necessary.

Tax on Interest

### Tax on Interest

Delive are necessary.

Tax on Interest

Q. Can we switch back to domestic policy, Mr. President? I want to ask you about your support for withholds are to see a considerable of the property of the property

A. The thing is before we ever came up with the proposal was when we explored all those ways, and the cost was or tremendous. It gets down in this age of computers to a really hand-to-hand, personal comparison of reports and so forth.

and so forth.

We're talking anywhere from \$5 billion to \$7.5 billion a yar that is being lost. But the other thing that the people don't realize yet — and we're going to try to inform them as much as we can — they don't realize that the bulk of these people who are protesting are not going to be affected. We're and interest biolings because we have set a limit below which we don't go.

And where the senior citizens are concerned, and they are very much concerned because so many of them now are counting on savings and so forth, where they're concerned, they're not going to be affected at all. They're exempt. So, there's only a limited number of people.

limited number of people.

Now, the other thing is this fear of some loss of return on their interest. The some loss is the state of the some loss of the some

Q. Mr. President, did you give thought to going on television to make your case on this, as you did on an-other subject the other night?

other subject the other night?

A. I don't know, We've talked about all the things we can do. We're trying to refute this. I've been encouraged by some surveying that's been done that revealed that the people out there are revalued. The only trouble is they're realize. The only trouble is they're only bearing from one side. We're trying to get them to hear from the other side.

### Is Watt a Liability?

Is Watt a Liability?

Q. We're down to some short time here, sir. I wonder if you could tell me, sir. I wonder if you could tell me, the source of the property of the propert

And I think what Jim Watt is the victim of is not the rank and file out there of environmentalists — I think I'm one — but the victim of those protessionals in some of the measurement of the residuals in some of the measurement of the some of the residuals in some of the residuals in some of the residuals whether they really want he problem solved or whether they haven't recognized that as long as they can keep the people impressed that there is a problem, their caretage will go on.

## Decontrol of Natural Gas,

Q. I have one other quick one, Mr. President. On the decontrol of natural sas, you want that.

Q. But utilities are really legal monopolies. There is no competition, so to speak. I mean, prices don't coind down like they do for suager or offee or any thing sites and the same than the property of the same than the proof of the same than the present of the same than the present of the proof of the proo

## **One-Term Presidents**

One-Term Presidents
Q. Without talking about your own re-election plans, do you think that it — does it cause you any concern that this country has had a succession of elected to a how have not been re-elected to a how have not been re-elected to a become term, the succession of one-term Presidents? Is that the cause of any concern, do you think? Any or any second term, the succession of one-term Presidents? Is that the cause of any concern, do you think? It have read many secole who say it is, and I have to say, yes, I think it is, because I think it creates an instability. And it should be — the whole subject should be looked at. Having been eight years in — as a Governor—and this isn't in any way to tip off what I may or may not do because it in a start of the subject is the subject of t

## **Missing Servicemen**

Missing Servicemen

Q. Mr. President, one super quick question here. Since you've just talked a little bit about P.O.W.'s and M.I.A.'s, you've signed a proclamabelieve any American servicemen from Victana ner still alive in Southeast Asia?

A. I don't think we can afford to believe there aren't. And I know that this is the attitude that the Defense Deheve there aren't. And I know that this is the attitude that the Defense Dehat there are some more than 2,000, close to 2,200 around there, names of individuals missing in action, that there's no record. And a number of those — there have been returned prisoners who say that they had seen there's no record. And a number of those — there have been returned to be a superior of the service of the control of the service of the servic